

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 /061 W
-----072783 211647Z /40

O 211628Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5591
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USSACLANTMT
USLOCINCLANT
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 05574

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, AWACS, BE
SUBJECT: DPC PERMREPS CONSIDERATION OF NATO AWACS
PACKAGE ON MARCH 22, 1978

REF: STATE 70746

1. REFTTEL RECEIVED BRUSSELS MID-AFTERNOON MARCH 21 AFTER SERVICING AS MISSING.
 2. WE MADE DEMARCHE REQUESTED REFTTEL TO FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CHIEF OF NATO AFFAIRS, ERIK BAL, AS THE APPROPRIATE ACTION OFFICER IN BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HANDLING ALL ASPECTS OF THE AWACS QUESTION. HE PROMISED US TO DISCUSS OUR DEMARCHE IMMEDIATELY WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. WE SUBSEQUENTLY TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO REACH APPROPRIATE POLICY LEVELS IN DEFENSE MINISTRY TO FOLLOW UP, BUT HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT BAL GOT THROUGH TO MOD CHEF DE CABINET LEFEBVRE.
 3. BAL UNDERSTOOD REASON FOR OUR DEMARCHE AS NECESSARY PROCEDURAL STEP AND PART OF SCENARIO TO MOVE AWACS
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QUESTION TOWARDS RESOLUTION. HE TOLD US THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT "NOTED AND WOULD CONSIDER" OUR REQUEST, BUT THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO EXERCISE "GREAT PRUDENCE" NOT TO GIVE A FALSE IMPRESSION THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED AWACS. HE REMINDED US THAT AWACS WAS AN "IMPORTANT AND DELICATE" MATTER FOR THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THE BELGIAN PERMREP AGREES TO ALLOW THIS AWACS PACKAGE PROPOSAL TO BE FORWARDED TO HIS GOVERNMENT FOR REVIEW, IT DOES NOT APPEAR LIKELY TO US AT THIS POINT THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WILL ACCEPT AWACS. SOME OF THE BELGIAN CRITICISMS REPORTED IN 76 BRUSSELS 12759 ON THE NATURE OF THE AWACS SYSTEM AND PROGRAM HAVE BEEN REPEATED TO US IN THE INTERVENING MONTHS. IN ADDITION, THE BUDGETARY PROBLEM THAT AWACS FACES (77 BRUSSELS 2010 AND BRUSSELS 5141) IS STILL VERY MUCH AN ISSUE. END COMMENT. CHAMBERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: AIR DEFENSE, AWACS, WARNING SYSTEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
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From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780344/aaaablcl.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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